Export of steel to China and other East-Asian countries

2523. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a surge of demand of stainless steel, particularly from China in the recent past;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to augment production in the Alloy Steel Plant—Salem; and

(c) the steps being taken to export stainless steel by SAIL to China and other East-Asian countries on a long-term basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) In the recent past, there has been a surge in demand of stainless steel from China, As reported by the Joint Plant Committee, Kolkata, the export of stainless steel to China from India has been 3922.3 tonnes, 8569 tonnes and 13940 tonnes (provisional) respectively during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and April-June, 2002.

(b) and (c) Salem Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur have been receiving lot of enquiries from China. Efforts are being made to synergise operations of Alloy Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant to meet the export demand of stainless steel. In other Asian countries, there has been no perceptible change in demand, even though SAIL is making efforts to export stainless steel to Indonesia.

Prediction regarding fall in FDI inflow

2524. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the prediction made in the United Nations Conferece of Trade and Development that there will be a 27 per cent drop in Foreign Direct Investment inflow world-wide;

(b) Government's comments thereon; and